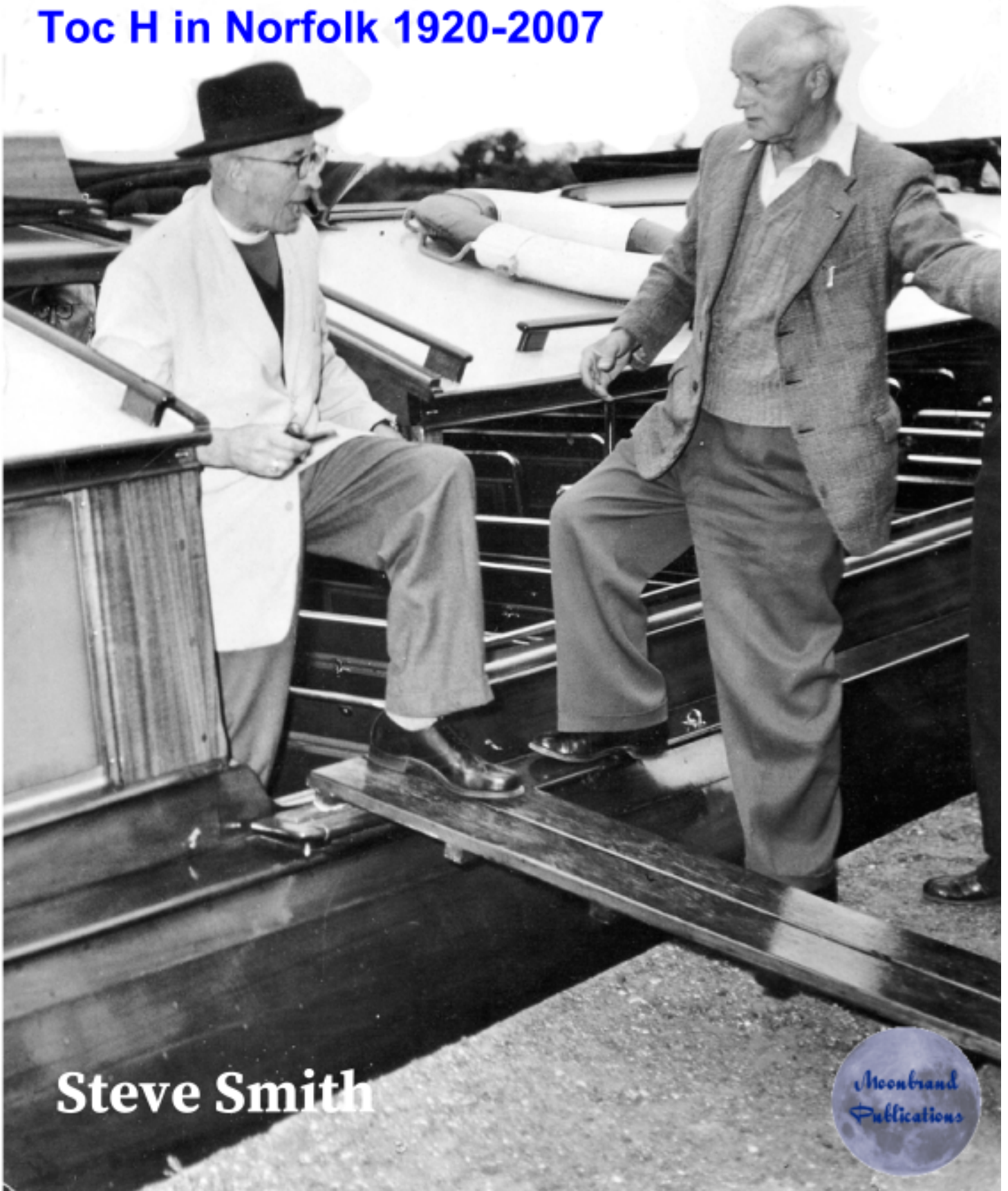


Do Different



Build Bravely

Toc H in Norfolk 1920-2007



Steve Smith

*Moontbrand
Publications*



*Let your light so shine before men
that they may see your good works*



Front Cover An unidentified Padre steps off of a Broads cruiser with the assistance of Gordon Read of North Walsham branch

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First Edition
Second Edition

2007
2019

This booklet was originally produced for a Toc H Norfolk Rally at the Pleasaunce in Overstrand. It was online for a while but has not been available for some years. This new imprint on Moonbrand, which has had some minor errors corrected, is available as an online book and a downloadable PDF.

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INTRODUCTION

This is not the complete story of Toc H in Norfolk! How could it be? It is almost ninety years since the first Norfolk men came together in the name of Toc H. At some point more than 40 towns and villages had a branch – often two as the women's movement had their own branch in many towns. And in each of those branches, how many members? All those people, all those places, all those years – there is too much to tell in these few pages!

I hope you enjoy this small insight into the work of Toc H in Norfolk and if you are one of those who contributed to this work over the years then I thank you with all my heart. Whatever may happen in the future I know that you, my friends, will always

Love Widely
Build Bravely
Think Fairly, and
Witness Humbly

Yours in Toc H

Steve Smith

October 2007



Gorleston branch representing Toc H at the Lord Lieutenant's Special Service for voluntary organisations in May 2007

IN THE BEGINNING

When the First World War ended, Tubby Clayton was determined that the Fellowship that had been forged in the Old House in Poperinge, should be kept alive in the UK. He embarked on plans for a new house in London but at the same time encouraged men in the provinces to rekindle the Toc H spirit in their locality. To achieve this, in June 1920, he wrote a circular letter (Inset) to a number of those he had known as they passed through the Old House and whose addresses he had collected from the surviving Communicants slips. In Norfolk, the two figures he wrote to could not have come from more different backgrounds. One was Major Quintin Gurney, an officer of the Norfolk Yeomanry and later of the 8th Army Corps. Gurney had joined the Talbot House Committee in March 1918. A member of the famous Gurney banking family, Major Quintin's family tree was filled with the kind of people Toc H would later nurture. These included Elizabeth Fry — the famous prison reformer, Thomas Fowell-Buxton—the anti-slave campaigner, and Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, another prison reformer and designer of the Borstal system.

The other contact Tubby wrote to in Norfolk was Albert 'Inky' Bean, a young printer from a working class background in Great Yarmouth. Immediately the words of the sign that hung in Talbot House rang true:

ALL RANK ABANDON YE WHO ENTER HERE



The June 1920 circular from Tubby to Foundation members in the provinces asking them to form local branches. I believe a copy of this letter was received by Major Q.E. Gurney in Dereham and Gunner A.V. 'Inky' Bean in Yarmouth, thus sowing the seeds of Toc H in Norfolk.

"DEAR TALBOTHOUSIAN,

"This is by way of being a formal letter from Talbot House H.Q. to ask you whether you can see your way to act in your own district as Local Secretary to the Movement. The step we are now taking in the formation of Local Branches all over the Kingdom is one that is vital to the welfare and development of the new work, and it is of the utmost importance that Toc H. should be represented by a Foundation Member whose sense of service and fellowship can be relied on.

"The geographical analysis of our old Communicants' Roll (with the addition of a few old friends of the House) is now at length complete. It has been a big undertaking for an amateur staff, but the foundations are well and truly laid. The districts which we have formed are—(a) London and the big provincial centres; (b) country districts which have been more sub-divided, in order that the Local Secretary may not find his small flock utterly beyond his reach.

"Let me tabulate briefly the answers to the various questions which are raised in your mind as you read this:—

"1. *Why organise our provincial membership at all?* Answer: because unity is strength. Hitherto the touch has been solely maintained by post, and old friends of T.H. in the same town—even in the same street—have not known one another. The individualism has been hitherto inevitable, but this practice must cease forthwith, and we want the Members to know one another in all your glorious diversity of outlooks and occupations, and learn to stand together.

"2. *What are the obligations of non-London membership?* Financially the payment of 2s. 6d. annually, which is more or less a nominal sum, scarcely adequate to cover the printing and postage, now that it costs over £60 to circularise our membership. In deeper matters a foundation membership has already shown gifts of faith, fellowship and service. We are a fellowship of experienced youth and disinterested enthusiasm, and it is God's will that we should go forward.

"3. *What are the advantage of Membership?* The renewal of links that City life would otherwise sever; the linking up of old and tried friendships; and the formation of fresh ones between those who have a great experience in common, all of which will refresh the younger generation, whom we must include in our Membership, what we learnt on Active Service, that there is a great deal of original good in man.

"4. *What facilities does Membership offer?* A first-rate Club House in London, run with a complete absence of class-distinction and in a friendly and helpful way, with cheap accommodation for London and country members, and opportunities for sport, laughter, plain living and high thinking.

"5. *Will there be local Club houses?* We hope so, and will help the local branches to help themselves in every way we can.

"Here, then, are the facts about Toc H. Will you wade in with the Local Secretaryship? If so, I suggest that you find, if you can, three or four keen spirits of whom you may form a Committee and whose advice and help you can refer to on all local matters, especially in the selection of new members. If you will take the Secretaryship on, we will—(a) send you a Visiting List of members near you; (b) reimburse you for any advertisement of your appointment in the local Press that you may see fit to make, and, of course, notify your appointment in our Club Directory. The next step waits for you.

"Yours more than sincerely,

P. B. CLAYTON,

Padre and Hon. Sec."

In July 1920 the first ever Directory of Toc H was published and Norfolk's sole representative was Major Q.E. Gurney based in Dereham. He was the local correspondent with a duty to band together men in the name of Toc H.

As yet, the other recipient of Tubby's letter had not quite managed to establish Toc H in Yarmouth. I'll let Tubby tell that story himself.

In an East Anglian Town, famous for bloaters, a Gunner sat, his head between his hands. It was 1920, and early spring. The Gunner was no longer in the Army. He had come Home, and had been re-established as a compositor upon the sea-port's Daily Mercury. The high tide of return had landed him in the domestic circle of his Flanders dreams. His wise wife understood him thoroughly; his children were the cynosure of all eyes in the street for tidy turn-out and docile behaviour. What then, was there to weigh on his mind?

In truth, he blamed himself for certain moods of discontent, which evidenced themselves of late, when the sheer joy of home, of being free, of being once again a citizen, began to fade. It lasted for six months; and then returned a yearning for the rough and tumble of Battery life, for men who had become (with all their foibles) strangely dear to him, yes, and for the big sense of self-surrender to a great cause. All these things he had known; and now the day of small things had reclaimed him.

These men had been his pals, his working partners, mates in the bivvies, teams in the gun-pits, brothers in their rough way. Friends had been killed, apparently to very little purpose. He still could hear their moans and imprecations; but pain makes anyone say anything. "A stomach-wound is worst," so his thoughts ran, as if it might occur that afternoon. But he had come through whole. Why was he chosen to survive so many, who might have done much more to help their fellows? Before him, lay a letter from a Padre he had known. In it the Padre told him that he was to regard himself as the Keyman in that whole district of East Anglia for the revival of old Talbot House. What could he do? He would, in the first case, take counsel with his brother over it.

His brother was not prone to Churchmanship, and war had had an adverse affect on him. Yet, for the sake consanguinity, he acquiesced, limiting his liability to the considerable outlay of 7s 6d. That was one half of the hire price of the hall in which the inaugural meeting of this new Society was to take place. An announcement to this effect was inserted by the compositor's employer in the Town paper; and the two brothers, turned out to welcome all and sundry at the doors of the hall at 8pm. At the announced time, no one had come. At 8.15 the same was the result. At 8.30 there had been no addition. At 9pm the meeting still consisted of the two brothers, waiting at the door. At 9.30 the brother, who had joined reluctantly in the adventure, solemnly passed over his three half-crowns, and left to get a drink before closing time. At 10.15 the Gunner, now alone, put out the lights and locked up the hired hall.

When he reached home, his wise wife comforted him; and to her comfort Toc H in East Anglia, in eighteen units prior to the second world war, owes its foundation.

Tubby On Toc H – Compiled by John Durham (Toc H Publications -1963)

Great Yarmouth Begins

Eventually Inky's determination (with his wife's support) paid off and a small band of Yarmouth men gathered together. They started to expand more rapidly when the Revd. D.C. Tibbenham joined them in 1922. Unaware of Toc H previously, Tibbenham saw the potential of such an organisation and encouraged their growth. By 1927 they were established enough to gain branch status (Norwich had beaten them to this status by three years despite not starting until 1923 - See below). The Yarmouth lamp was presented to the branch by Col. I.H. Benn in memory of the Drifter Patrol and was lit by the Prince of Wales at the Royal Albert Hall on 3rd December 1927. The lamp became known simply as the Drifter Lamp.

They found themselves a dilapidated house which they took over and made habitable. Here they spent time discussing the issues of the day and each year held a Children's Party. Another pre-war favourite was Great Yarmouth Hospital Day where Toc H joined other organisations raising funds for the local hospitals. Toc H normally pitched their stall on the front near the Empire. The branch would dress up as convicts and have a dart game where you threw darts into playing cards to win a prize. Prizes were usually a pack of ten fags courtesy of one of the two members who ran tobacconists in the town!

By the late forties the branch had taken a lead in organising Welfare and Social Activities for the Deaf and Dumb – a job which they had been carrying out for many years - under the auspices of the new National Health Service.

MEETING PLACES

Over the years the branch shifted its meeting place on many occasions. For a time they used Johnson's Rooms in Northgate Street close to St Nicholas; by 1933 they were in St Andrew's House (Sometimes St Andrew's Institute) on North Quay but in February 1937 they moved to 146a Kings Street. After the Second World War they lost their King Street HQ and were offered use of the vicarage rooms as a stopgap. By 1949 they were using the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Albion Road. Later they would move into 'Anna Sewell House' on Church Plain where the Toc H lamp can still be seen on the leaded windows, and finally they ended up in the Mission Rooms on Runham Vauxhall which is where they were when they closed down and merged with Gorleston.

In 1939, Toc units across the world were encouraged to go back to basics and open Services Clubs. One opened in Great Yarmouth in October 1939 and was initially run by Inky Bean. Its entrance was in Row 105, opposite St George's church and now obliterated by Yarmouth Way. It centred around a canteen – over the door of which was the familiar sign



Great Yarmouth branch photographed at a Farewell supper to Padre J.E.E Tunstall on 8th April 1935. The Revd Tunstall became Area Padre in North London district.

'Abandon All Rank Ye Who Enter Here' but also had two quiet rooms (for reading), a games room, and a chapel. Toc H also offered a service finding men on leave a billet with local people, and there was a notice board on the wall where people could pin messages for colleagues and relatives, just like they had done at the Old House. In 1941 Inky left for Cambridge where he opened another service club in the company of Howard Dunnett and a Mr Gorne. Inevitably this club was known as Bean and Gorne and Dunnett!! Later Inky would move to Southampton to be warden at the Toc H Home for Seafaring Boys.

Gorleston, who had come together in the mid thirties, ran a similar club above the Coliseum in Gorleston High Street (See branch directory for further details)

After the war it was business as usual for the Yarmouth branch although they tried to expand their service repertoire in the 1950s by conducting tours of Old Yarmouth for tourists. Eventually the ravages of time caught up with the branch and it decided to merge with Gorleston.

But what of the rival city inland?

Norwich

In Norwich, the story of Toc H can be traced back to the night of 25th January 1923 when Alec Patterson, the prison reformer and one of Tubby's earliest allies in Toc H, travelled to Norwich and spoke to an audience of some 70 people in the Colman House at the YMCA. The evening was presided over by the Lord Mayor and had the intent of a Norwich branch being formed. The call was heeded and a Group established which was promoted to a Branch in 1924. (Thus beating the earlier formed Yarmouth to branch status)

Rev G D'Arcy Blackman and Dr A. Greene took a leading part in the founding of the Norwich branch. Captain Geoffrey Colman donated branch lamp in memory of his friend Gilbert Talbot

The Norwich branch met at Erpingham House in 22 Tomblands (Now Erpingham House restaurant) which they shared with Norfolk T.A. and Red Cross. In 1926 this was given as their address but a note said they met in Curat House, Haymarket (Now JD Sports). By 1927 were in Church House on the corner of Pottergate and St John's Alley – fittingly this is now a theme pub selling Belgian beers!

Soon after the war they were on Elm Hill where they remained for at least 30 years.

Around 1931 the Norwich branch found itself too large and Norwich Heigham Group was started. Heigham being an area to the West of the City. Normally where a group is hived off from another group it goes its own way but in this case, Heigham was to work alongside its elder brother.

Norwich Women's branch was formed 1934 with Lady Mayhew being a founder member and a stalwart of the League of Women Helpers, later becoming a Vice President of the Women's Association. She maintained a close association with Norwich branch until moving to London. In 1964 the branch celebrated their 30th Anniversary

Church House, St John's Alley where the Norwich branch met from 1927 until WWII.



Much of Toc H's work in Norwich was with the Blind but there were many other activities which are shown throughout this booklet.



Norwich ladies celebrating their 50th anniversary in 1984/5. Founding member Lady Mayherw is seated centre

Photo © EDP



Norwich District stalwart Harry Long and Long Term Volunteer, Helen Onslow, emptying the Toc H post-box.

After publication of the original booklet I received this message from Pat Dalley.

I have been thinking a lot of the old times since we met and feel it was a great shame that so little was in your book about the Norwich ladies and all they did. When my husband and I came to Norfolk in 1963 the Norfolk Show was busy with the Stockmen's Canteen with which I soon became involved. This was, at that time run by Mr and Mrs Bell. My husband and I then took this over from 1987 for 10 years until it finally finished. I did see my name in your book under the piece about Colin Webdell.

Toc H when I came to Norfolk was busy, the ladies then met at Magdalen Road in the Blind Home and then transferred with them later to their new home at Thomas Tawell House. I remember meeting in the early days when we mended bed linen, letters were written and parcels packed and sent off at Christmas. Every Sunday two of the ladies would take the blind to church at St Andrews, two on each arm, and sometimes a couple of partially sighted in the middle.

Great events were the parties at Carrow Road in the summer when we used St Christopher Coach to collect blind and disabled, music from the Salvation Army band, a good tea and chat with them. We also went to Lewis Buckingham regularly on a Saturday afternoon to serve tea to the elderly, and of course the party for the Deaf and Dumb at Suckling Hall, now Cinema City, was a riot.

The ladies met at Thomas Tawell House until 1991, that is the last date I have in my diary, you must remember they were getting older, in fact I was the youngest and I was in my 60s.

I think the minutes of these meetings must have been held by Barbara Roberts who was the secretary for the ladies until we finished. Unfortunately she is no longer with us so I cannot say what happened to them.

BRANCH LIFE

The following pages illustrate some aspects of Toc H's work in Norfolk along with some pictures of just a few of the many branches



Gorleston (2006) —the last branch in Norfolk



The commemorative coffee pot presented to BB Bothams for his work in the wartime canteen in Gorleston.

Gorleston women's branch c 1960
L-R: Bunny Blount, Margery Palmer, Margaret Lewis, Betty White, Joan Gates, and Olive Tennant.



Cecelia Ebbage (Gorleston Ladies) reflects on some of the work they did.....

The Gorleston Ladies branch of Toc H was formed shortly before the war by Phyllis Bowyer (Cyril 'Cubby' Bowyer's wife). Dr Young on Church Road - an Edwardian house and outbuildings – gave us the use of the loft over his garage for our meetings. I think we numbered about 15 but the record books would show the date of our first meeting. I believe it could have been in early 1939.

On Friday Sept 1st 1939 we were asked to help at the Floral Hall (Now the Ocean Room) when that afternoon children from London and the south of England would be arriving by sea on the Queen Pleasure Boats and would be accommodated overnight at the Floral Hall. The next morning they would leave by coaches for their evacuees homes in Norfolk and parts of Suffolk.

In the middle of the afternoon the children arrived seeming quite bewildered as one would expect - some tearful and unhappy; some interested in the surroundings and wanting to go to the beach. I believe that some thought that this is where they would be staying, at the seaside.

We helped with making them as comfortable as possible and then gave them a meal. I believe most of the food was provided by Matthes the bakers. Most of them cheered up by 6-7pm. Very sleepy! The centre of the Floral Hall was much bigger than it is today (The dance area) and straw mattresses had been placed there, I believe the men's branch had arranged this. We had a good supply of blankets and I believe there was one sheet for each mattress.

There were a few mothers accompanying the children – several expecting a baby.

Of course, as one would expect, we had to be on the alert. I believe we rested on the gallery but able to keep an eye on the children who would want the lavatory, or a little cheering up with a cuddle if they were frightened and wondering what had happened.

Children can be adaptable and the next morning most ate a good breakfast after which they had to be marshalled outside to catch the coaches to the various villages and their foster parents. Eventually they were away. I remember the mixed feelings we had – apprehensive for them especially after the boat trip and their sudden realisation that they were far from home.

Cecelia Ebbage 20th July 2007



Stock Photo



Sproston banner



AN IDEA FROM NORWICH.

A pillar-box built, painted in Tote H colours, and set up in a prominent place in the town by the Norwich Highways Group to collect papers and magazines for distribution at the infirmary. Save for its gay black and amber, the box remains anonymous, but its silent and continuous work and the interest it arouses have proved the idea a most successful one.

The original post-box (Above right) installed outside the public library by Norwich Heigham to collect magazines for the hospital and its late sixties replacement (Left) installed by Norwich District to collect stamps and magazines



The front and back of a plaque presented to Padre Blackman of Norwich in 1938. The plaque is now at Talbot House.



The Jimmy Savile Mini-Handi dances were a national Toc H initiative. These two photos are from one of Norwich's events

North Walsham sort spectacles for the Third World



In 1978 Aylsham collected keys and metal toys for the Blue Peter appeal. Roy Key is pictured with some local children

Some familiar faces running a stall, possibly at the Royal Norfolk Show
L-R Alan Brooke, an unidentified volunteer, and Colin Websdell



1976's big cause were knit-ins organised jointly by Toc H (Olive Tennant) and the NSPCC. They raised money for Leeway (Norwich refuge for battered wives) amongst other causes. Knitters included local WI, disabled people from Vauxhall Centre. 250lb of wool was collected for the knit in and had to wound into 1oz balls before it could be used.





A pew end at All Hallows carved from wood taken from the old Post Mill where Bradwell met



The founding members of Bradwell branch



The Old Slaughter House, Recreation Ground Road
Sprowston Toc H Headquarters.



Sprowston branch raising funds for Norwich hospital radio

THE BIRTH OF A BRANCH

North Walsham

In November 1934, Mr Arthur Mowle of Happisburgh group organised a meeting in the Corn Hall at North Walsham. It was attended by representatives of Happisburgh, Norwich and Norwich Heigham groups along with about eight North Walsham men including Major P. Pickford D.S.O., M.C., the Rev F.A. Chase (Vicar of St Nicholas, North Walsham) and the Rev. B.F. Ritson. After the organisation and its aims were formally explained a Grope was formed. The first Grope meeting was held at St Nicholas' rooms on 23rd November 1934. Those in attendance included Arthur Mowle, Rev. Ritson, Kenneth Brown, Edward Newman, H. Wallwork, Rev Chase, and several others. Mr Frank Stannard was appointed Chairman whilst Arthur Mowle took both the Treasurer and Secretary roles. The Reverends Chase and Ritson was later appointed Padres. Frank Stannard soon left the Grope and by Feb 1935 Mr Lachlan was chairman.

By the end of the year a permanent meeting room at Ivy Cottage, Aylsham Road was obtained and fortnightly meetings were held there.

The Grope's first job was to collect gramophone records to be given to a Children's home. Other early work was in support of the cottage hospital.

Meetings were filled with readings from *The Challenge* and the *Journal*; debates sparked by such articles; and planning of future jobs. They were fuelled with a coffee break and always closed with Light and Family Prayers

The Grope frequently visited Sheringham and Happisburgh branches and also had return visits from these and Norwich. Later their visits extended to Aylsham, Cawston, and their own spin-off branch at Holgate.

In April 1935 they decided to start a fund to arrange holidays for the blind

In October 1935 the Grope were successfully initiated as a Group. This status was officially conferred on 31 Oct 1935 at a ceremony attended by Norwich, Sheringham, Happisburgh, GY, & Norwich Heigham and took place in the Guides Hut, Aylsham Road which had recently become their new HQ. They were bestowed a rushlight

Summer 1937, in collaboration with local businessmen, they formed the North Walsham Lads Club along the same lines as the famous Norwich Lads Club.

In November 1939 the group decided that since they were tied up in Civil Defence meetings should only be held every two months. The war also led to the interesting scenario where the minutes of the meeting on 7 Nov 1939 were not signed off until 5th March 1946 at which point regular meetings recommenced in the ARP Control Room, in Yarmouth Road

North Walsham finally attained Branch status and were bestowed a lamp in

North Walsham float in 50s. Peter Pashley recalled that Toc H normally won first prize...because no one else entered!



March 1946. The Lamp of Maintenance was actually presented to the branch at Norwich on 3rd April 1947 by Peter Rabon, Norfolk District Secretary.

In 1947 they got their branch banner (Right)

In April 1950 the North Walsham branch was so successful that they 'split' by forming a new Holgate unit (Led again by Arthur Mowle). After failing to get branches in North Repps and Bacton off the ground, North Walsham were key in establishing Mundesley unit in 1958

In 1951 began meeting at the Barn. Actually a building in Mitre Tavern Yard Shared with the Scouts

On 30th Aug 1972 met in the hut on New Road where they continued to meet until their demise just a few years ago.



EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTE BOOKS

If you thought it was all serious business let me tell you that at one meeting there was great discussion caused by the fact that a member had had oil from the lamp spilled down his flannel trousers. Some felt he should acquire a new pair at the branch's expense but ultimately it was decided he should patronise the local cleaners!

4th May 1951

"15 members proceeded by car to Sprowston for a guest night. Arrangements went quite well until a certain member of the branch was reluctantly driven past Scottow Three Horse-shoes where it seems he desired to spend part of the evening. It was decided that in future we go to Norwich by a different route to avoid a future repetition of this member's behaviour"



The memorial board in North Walsham's branch meeting rooms

MUNDESLEY HOUSE

Much of Toc H's early work was based around the hostels—known as Marks—that they ran throughout the UK. Later Toc H acquired permanent buildings and campsites such as Cuddesdon and Dor Knap, for use by the movement. Norfolk never had anything like this so it was an exciting event when they obtained the use of a large house at Mundesley. Former warden Trevor Sizer reflects on this event.

It's a long time ago now but I'll give you a few details as I remember them. The nearest Toc H house to East Anglia was Alison House and it was felt that a property in Norfolk / Suffolk would be an asset. We searched for & viewed one or two possible houses but to no avail. Through a person in Taverham, Norwich where Pat & I then lived we learnt of a house which could be leased, on a youth site, to Toc H. It was discussed with the then HQ staff and an agreement to lease for 5 years was undertaken. This I think was in 1985, but could be a year either side. The thinking was that it would be a residential/training/ project centre for the then Mid-Eastern Region & particularly suited to work with young people being on a 5 acre site with 2 other youth houses. Toc H undertook to refurbish and equip the house which could sleep 28 person in a variety of rooms. The house was one of three which together with their grounds and that of an adjacent bungalow had been bought at various times and run as 'Methodist' Youth Holidays/Camp. The original house of the site was called "Raxawa" (which in Ceylonese means resting place for man & beast) and used as a District Youth House prior to the establishment of the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs. When not required by Methodism it was purchased and run by the local management committee as a company with full charitable status. The house which Toc H leased was bought in at a later time. It was known as Domum House (house with a homely atmosphere) and had for many years been the summer home of one of the Bishops of Peterborough. I wrote an article for Point Three in the period 1985/8 about the house and received a letter from a clergyman in Dagenham who was the bishop's son in which he indicated that his father was a great educationalist and would have welcomed the use by Toc H and young people. All in all I think the house was a worthwhile venture but policy changed and it was decided not to renew the lease & it reverted back to the Methodist Youth Complex. Unfortunately they only operated until 1992 having sold the whole site. It is now a housing complex!!

The article that Trevor refers to is reproduced overleaf



Mundesley House

The story of a new 'focal point' Trevor Sizer

Mundesley is a small rural town on the north Norfolk coast, some 15 miles north of the Norfolk Broads. Situated on the eastern edge of the town on the cliff top, there is a five and a half acre complex owned by Methodist Youth Holidays Ltd, in which there are three houses, plus ancillary buildings and an adventure playground. One of these houses, which Tocc H has leased from MYH Ltd, is the most secluded, self-contained in its own grounds, and closest to the cliff top.

This story starts in 1983 when, in the late summer, an approach was made to me from MYH Ltd, asking if Tocc H might be interested in some form of working partnership. If so, it was suggested a 'common ground' which appeared to exist between the two organisations, particularly in our work with young people, and also to consider if any facilities in the MYH complex could be suitable for wider general Tocc H use.

It was soon clear that we had much in common. MYH exists for the purpose of helping and educating young persons through their leisure time, holiday and educational activities, so to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and that their conditions of life may be improved and to enable us to strengthen their desire for a full and active Christian life.

This closely parallels major parts of our aims and objects, i.e. 'to advance the Christian religion, to advance education especially in regard to the study and practice of the social

sciences, ... in the interests of social welfare ... to provide, maintain and manage provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations with the object of improving conditions particularly among young people ... to give assistance to the sick, old, disabled ... to provide, maintain and manage Community Houses, Hostels, ... Social Centres and places of meeting or recreation or instruction ... to enter into any arrangement for joint working or co-operation with any society or body of persons ... carrying on work or having objects similar to the work and objects of Tocc H ...

It was felt that sufficient 'common ground' existed for a possible way of working together to be examined. Meetings were therefore arranged between the officers of MYH and Tocc H whilst at the same time more local conversations were held with the membership and other bodies (social services, colleges etc) to determine what the reaction would be if we took an interest in the complex at Mundesley.

The result of these discussions was that in April 1985 Tocc H entered into an agreement with MYH to lease one of the three houses in the complex for a period of five years.

The house, formerly the summer residence of the Bishop of Peterborough, is of medium size, comprising 13 rooms and offering accommodation for 28 people in eight bedrooms, one of which is on the ground floor. The kitchen has been newly equipped to provide self-catering facilities of a high standard. We are currently working to provide level

access or ramps and have fitted grab rails for use by the less able in all toilets and showers. The provision of a shower room suitable for wheelchair users is also in hand.

Mundesley House will be a Tocc H facility for use by groups of all ages but will give priority to the training and recreation of young people. In consultation with Norfolk Social Services it has been equipped to allow people with a limited degree of handicap to participate in groups in as 'normal' a manner as possible. It is not intended that this house should become a centre for the handicapped but rather that any handicapped person wishing to go there should be able to do so with a minimum of inconvenience. At the same time people dealing specifically with groups of disabled would not be precluded from using the property if they were happy with the facilities available. Use of the grounds is also possible for those who prefer to camp.

It had been intended that the first year, or much of it at least, would be occupied in getting work completed within the house. Although much of this has been accomplished it has had to be done in between use by a variety of groups who have wished to use the house earlier than we had anticipated. To date we have had groups from Malton, Mosaby, Nottingham, Bridlington, TAG, a Harlow Boys Choir and a Bangladesh party while Lowestoft College of FE have booked eight weeks use.

So it is starting to happen and the task is to ensure that it develops and grows. It is a considerable undertaking for not only are we furnishing and developing a new Tocc H centre but uniquely doing so whilst attempting to undertake a working partnership with MYH who manage the other two houses.

In all the planning to date we have had to accommodate this together with the longer term thinking that if this venture proves to be workable and successful we

Revel Frank Topping receives a TV set on behalf of Mundesley House at the Open Day in July.

Mundesley House

could have planned

would be looking toward some closer merger of this working partnership. With this in mind we have decided to embark on some particular ways of attempting to direct our development at Mundesley. We need to uphold the aims pertinent to Tocc H whilst at the same time being able to complement the pattern of working which MYH has evolved. Initially, therefore, we have decided to concentrate on interesting such forms and colleges to use the house. In this way we feel it will offer our own young leaders the opportunity to use the house for their own project or social activities while also opening up new avenues for use by other groups wishing to use it. This is already happening in a limited way which we are working to develop further. We see this as complementing the work of MYH who are mainly involved with school groups of a younger age range. We have already set up a steering group which we see as having two specific tasks. One to have concern for the house management and the other to look at wider developments

which are made possible through relationships developed between us and those using the house. There are a number of college tutors on our steering group and we see this as one of the means by which we can pursue such thinking and thus be able to establish local links between Tocc H Districts and those within their area who have used the house and wish to further their links with us.

The enthusiasm shown by the membership of Tocc H in East Anglia and beyond has been quite outstanding from the time we were examining the possible use of the Mundesley complex up to the present. They have been instrumental in setting up an Association of Friends whose priorities are both to support the house with manpower and finance and also to provide initial financial support for the development of house activities as yet to be identified by the Steering Group. Already they have helped to fund the decoration. So in many ways the house is being recognised as something which the membership feel they belong to and where ample scope exists for all who wish to be involved, in a variety of ways, to do so.

(Information on Mundesley House from Trevor Sizer, 12 Miller's Breck, Taverham, Norwich NR8 6NH. Tel: Norwich 867367.)

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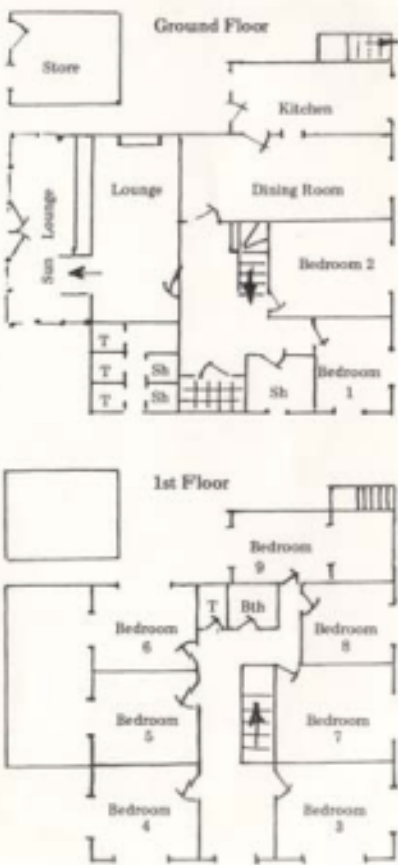
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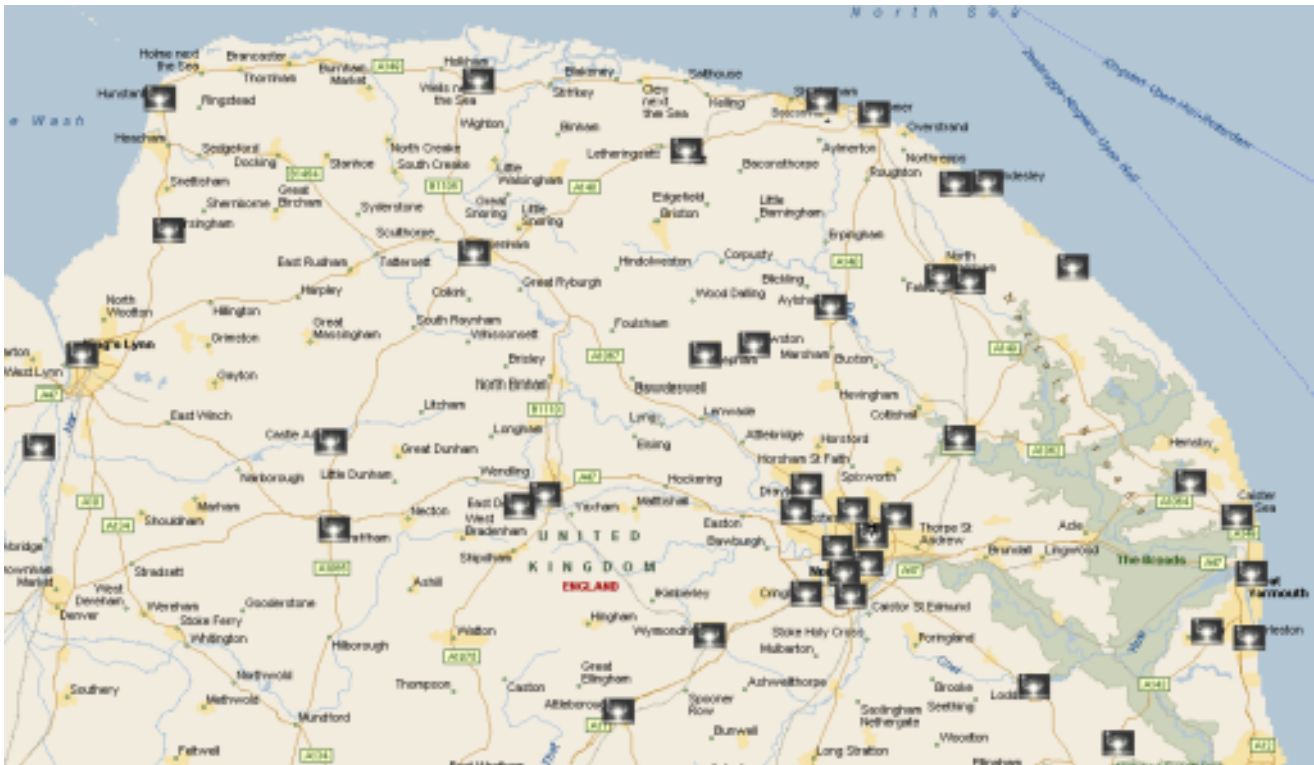
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ACCOMMODATION



NORFOLK BRANCH LIST



Although we talk mainly of branches, a body of men gathered together in the name of Toc H is in general a Unit. In the early days these Units started life as a Grope. Once a Grope had shown it had the conviction to move forward it would be granted Group status and have a Rushlight bestowed upon it. The Group would then continue their work on probation until such time it was decided they could become a Branch when they would be awarded a Lamp which would be officially lit at the next suitable National or Regional gathering.

Although the Grope unit was soon dropped, Groups were the entry level Unit for many years. It was far from automatic that a Group would achieve Branch status quickly, if at all. Some Units remained as Groups for many years (e.g. North Walsham) whilst others (The Walpoles; Wells) never made Branch status. Further more, Branch status was only awarded as a tenure and it was not unknown for a Branch to lose this status – sometimes by its own cognition.

This section lists as many Units of Toc H in Norfolk as I have been able to find with a few snippets of information about them.

Attleborough

Toc H survives in Attleborough through the Attleborough Players—a local drama group. At some time along the way one of their members had been a member of Toc H and the group became associated with them and as a result they were renamed the 'Toc H Players'. When the branch finally folded there was some money still left in their accounts and when the Attleborough Players were formed at the start of the seventies this money was bequeathed to them to help give them a start. In fact, some of the old Toc H members were also founder members of the new group, so it could be said that there was a degree of continuity from the old organisation to the new.



The laying up of Attleborough banner in 1982

Aylsham

One of their members was Roy Key of the famous Keys auctioneers in town.

In June 1957 Tubby paid surprise visit to the branch. He was received in Town Hall (where they met at this time) by Mr A.F. Barwick (Skipper) and Mr R.G. Fairclough (Treasurer). Tubby was at Wymondham for the 850th festival year of Wymondham Abbey for a service with Pat Leonard.

Bradwell*

Formed by H. Whiley, Bradwell were awarded branch status on 5th January 1938 with a three year tenure. On 10 Dec 1938 at the Birthday Festival at the RAH, Bradwell's lamp was the first of 56 lit that night by the Earl of Clarendon. (Later that same night the Sheringham Lamp was also lit) Bradwell's lamp was known as The Oliver Gosnold Clark Lamp and was given by his sisters. The dedication reads "In memory of Ranger Clark who gave his life for others whilst fighting a forest fire Vancouver Island 25.6.1925"

**At the time of its existence Bradwell was in Suffolk but included here as pt5 became part of Norfolk in 1972.*



Bradwell's petition to the Guard of the Lamp

Caister on Sea

Formed in 1960, Caister met initially in the Church Hall then in the old railway station on Manor Road. In late 60s this was redeveloped so they moved to Resthaven – the Aged Men's Rest Hut at rear of Council Hall (This was opened in 1951 but was barely in use when Toc H took it over). In 2000 the branch was in decline so they pulled down the hut and created a Millennium Seating Amenity on the site. They continued to meet in chairman Cyril Burrage's house until last meeting 5 May 2001. They gave their money away to a variety of causes including Centre 81. at Great Yarmouth. During the branch's lifetime they ran a community minibus and did outings for disabled (Amongst many other things). One of their huge achievements was the publication of an Annual Holiday Guide for Holidaymakers in Caister for over 15 years.

Roland Gill of Caister branch was involved in planning the new constitution (c.1967) which would pave the way for the unification of the Men's and Women's sections (so it is slightly ironic they that did not merge until 1978—sometime after many other branches).

There is a bench outside the library dedicated to Roland Gill, Bill Hogg, and Harry Marfleet.

Caister on Sea (Women)

Caister on Sea (Joint)

Cantley

I have seen a reference to a group at Cantley but cannot find any further details about it.

Castle Acre

Cawston

Cawston branch was formed in 1953. Amongst the service it provided for the village was the help it gave towards providing a bus shelter. The branch met either in Village Hall or at Cawston school. It closed in 1959. See also www.cawstonparish.info/toc_h.htm

Costessey

Founded around 1949

11th October 1970 Tubby visits St Edmund's, Costessey for service of rededication on 21st Anniversary of Costessey branch

Cringleford (Women)

Cromer

The Cromer Brass band started life as a Boys Band in the late 1940s formed by Toc H with Mr. Henry Bishop as Bandmaster/Conductor.

Oliver 'Finny' Finlay was branch padre in 1978

Cromer (Women)

Worked hand in hand with USAF Sculthorpe to give disabled British Legion men days out.

Dereham

Dereham formed Sep 1931. Their lamp was first lit at the Coming of Age Birthday party in 1936. They opened Barwell's Court as their rooms the following September.

The strongest branch in Mid Norfolk it helped start branches at Fakenham, Toftwood, and other places

Dereham (Women)

Dersingham

The branch used to meet in a club that had been built in an outbuilding at Dersingham Old Hall

Dersingham (Women)

Downham Market

In 1949 met on Mondays in Hill House on Church Lane.

Drayton

Eaton

Eaton ran one of Toc H's film units. They were also regular visitors to the Jenny Lind Hospital. Eaton branch provided a trophy—the Eaton Clanger—awarded to the branch with the best attendance at the Area Rallies

Fakenham

Formed by Dereham branch. In winter 1932 they came to the town to talk about Toc H. In 1933 a group was formed. During WWII only three members remained at home. They posted their names and addresses in the YMCA so that any members serving in the forces in that area (There were many airbases) could visit. Incidentally Toc H had restarted YMCA in Fakenham c1937 (Peter Raban and John Durham)

One of the founders was Frank Tipple who was the branch joker and a member of the branch Glee Singers.

They worked with the children's home at Little Snoring and Red House Farm School. Later did much work with Senior Citizens. Also involved in the Children's Camps.

One of the key figures in Fakenham was Peter Raban an Anglican priest. He later became *District Secretary*. Peter's son Jonathan is a well known travel writer, born in Norfolk but now living in Seattle. In 1950 Peter moved to work for Toc H in the North West



(Liverpool) and was replaced by Reg Smith from the Western Area.

In April 1956 Reg Smith initiated an American, a Pole and a German into the branch

The branch banner now hangs in the town's Gas Works and Local History museum

Fakenham (Women)

Filby

In 1949 they were a Group meeting on Fridays at the Vicarage.

Gimingham

Gorleston

Gorleston were sanctioned as a Group in 1934

One of their most memorable pieces of work was the wartime services club. It was housed above the Coliseum Cinema and run by Bernard 'BB' Bothams and Len 'Lovey' Loveday. Also Cabby Bowyer. (Cabby worked for Mathhes); Servicemen could get tea, coffee, sandwiches or a fry up by Mrs Nichols. LWH served at the counter and were assisted by the partially sighted Cyril. Ruritanian Mountain scenes were painted on the walls by a man who had been a scene painter for Ivor Novello productions (and remained until the Coliseum was demolished) There was a piano there that was often played. Later a house in Palmer Road was used for baths (Looked after by Walter) and upstairs was a small library and rest room where Cecil would sometimes lead gramophone recitals on a Sunday. Toc H Gorleston also provided distinctively painted (Black and Orange) bicycles at the railway stations for the use of troops. They were always returned. At the end of the war in Europe surplus furniture was sold off and the proceeds helped provide a canteen in Malaya for the men still fighting the war in the Far East.

Gorleston (Women)

Gorleston branch provided enlarged library and reading room at Heathers Plain for Servicemen and Women (1945)

In October 1961 Gorleston Women's Association branch came third with a float that took part in the RAF organised Carnival for Battle of Britain Week in GY. Another branch (Poss men's) also took part.

Gorleston (Joint)

Still going strong—the last Norfolk branch!

Great Yarmouth

See In the Beginning for the story of Great Yarmouth branch

Great Yarmouth (Womens)

Happisborough

One of the earliest Toc H branches in the county

Hellesdon

Hellesdon branch started c1951. In 1952 they were given the Priest's Room over the porch of St Mary's Hellesdon as their Upper Room. On 20 Sep 1952 a Dedication of the Upper Room, Badge and Lamp was conducted by the Revd W. Sinnott-Davies

In 1953 they collected waste paper were planning a boys camp. Around this time they also adopted Dennis Ugino in a Nigerian Leper Camp.

Holgate

Formed with assistance of North Walsham. They did much work for the local cottage hospital.

Holt

Holt (Women)

Hoveton & Wroxham

19 Apr 56 Norwich District Annual meeting. Hoveton and Wroxham lamp lit by Lord Mayor. Donated by Mr P.M. Gorton in memory of his father Revd John Gorton.

On 7th June 1956 Hoveton and Wroxham organised an evening Cruiser trip from Wroxham to Horning and back. Members of North Walsham, Cawston and Sprowston attended. Light was taken afloat on Wroxham Broad.



Holgate members present TV to North Walsham Hospital (1956)

Besides their fine work organising boat trips for the district, W&H did much service including the flashing light scheme. However their biggest claim to fame was that they met in one of the more unusual branch rooms. The waiting room on Wroxham and Hoveton BR station. Painted in pastel shades, rewired and refurbished it could fit 20 people 'at a push'

Hunstanton

In Hunstanton the Men and Women's branches worked together (1960s) to provide an annual party for the children of St Christopher's Orphanage

Hunstanton (Women)

Hunstanton (Joint)



Photograph by courtesy of "Lynn News and Advertiser" HUNSTANTON—A PARTY FOR ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

Kings Lynn

After the war Toc H sent clothes and toys to German children. Kings Lynn used to stuff sweets and toys in pockets and toes so they wouldn't be discovered until the children put them on.

Kings Lynn (Women)

Lakenham

Loddon

Loddon (Women)

Loddon (Joint)

Closed in 1979

Mundesley

Approved as group early 1958 and became a branch 13th October that year

In 1964 Mundesley took over running the Putting Green for the Parish Council. After making a profit of £300 the Inland Revenue declared that this was not in the primary purpose of the branch and taxed them at 7s 9d in the pound.

Provided a boat kit (Flares, tools and compass) for Mundesley Inshore Rescue boat.

North Walsham

See Birth of a Branch

In 1963 Toc H men from North Walsham 'despiked' the beach at Walcott by removing the remains of the WWII concrete defences.

In July 1975 they planted a flower bed outside the district council offices, forming the Toc H lamp from 1075 plants.



TOC H national chaplain the Rev. Frank Topping (right) receives a TV set from Mundesley Toc H branch.

Norwich

See In the Beginning

In 1974 16 disabled people from Vauxhall Centre went to Alison House for a holiday. This was organised by Toc H man Trevor Sizer who also worked at Vauxhall Centre

Norwich (Women)

Norwich (Joint)

Norwich In Touch Youth Group



Norwich Heigham

Norwich Enterprise

Jane Youngs, her sister and mother all joined Toftwood ladies in late 50s. This was a lively branch with people of all age ranges. When family moved to Norwich in early sixties, Jane found she did not fit in with 'older' branch so started Norwich Enterprise for younger members. They had 10-12 members and did a variety of jobs such as campaigning for wheel-chair access at Theatre Royal and taking residents from Leonard Cheshire home to church.

Jane also recalls a trip to Talbot House; a garden party at Windsor where they met Angus Ogilvey; and a great friend in Rev Jim Farrant who held annual service at Whissonset.

Ormesby

Una Watson wrote to tell me that "My fa-

ther 'Chummy' James was, for many years, a member of the Great Yarmouth Branch, and later the Ormesby, and later still, Ormesby Joint Branch. My mother was also a member - of Great Yarmouth Ladies Branch.

The Ormesby Men's Branch gave a Christmas Party for the village Senior Citizens for several years (with, I fancy, the women doing much of the work). Before becoming a Joint Branch, the members of Ormesby Men's, were, I think, down to four : My father, Mr. Frank Notley, Mr Pearce, and Jimmy Holmes”

Ormesby (Women)

Ormesby (Joint)

Pockthorpe

Achieved branch status 7 Nov 1956

Reepham

Sheringham

Sheringham became a branch on 1st Jun 1938

Sheringham Men's branch closed October 1980

Sheringham (Women)

Sprowston

Sprowston branch's main claim to fame was that they were responsible for starting football commentaries for hospital radio in Norwich. Two members—Arthur Smith and Sidney Grenville—developed the idea after branch members used to take blind people to Carrow Road and commentate on the game for them.

The branch met in the Old Slaughter House on the Recreation Ground. Sprowston branch was closed 28th March 1984. The banner was laid up in the parish church at a special service of dedication.

Sprowston (Women)

Swaffham

Swaffham (Women)

Toft Monks

Toftwood

Toftwood (Women)

Walpoles

A Walpoles group was established in 1957 – presumably never made branch status

Wells next to the Sea

Formed by Fakenham branch but didn't last long. They didn't meet during the summer months. One Fakenham member candidly suggests they didn't quite grasp the concept of Toc H.

Wiggenhall St Germans

Wymondham

Jan 1957 Wymondham were meeting at Holmwood on Monday evenings

Jan 1957 Wymondham jobmaster Mr F. Harwood led hymn singing at Wymondham hospital

Won the 1974 Sydney Waller bowls championship

Wymondham (Women)

Wymondham ladies formed 1955

Because of the District boundaries the following branches were sometimes 'roped' in with Norfolk. Beccles (Suffolk), Kirkley (Suffolk), Lowestoft (Suffolk). Wisbech (Cambridgeshire),



ALAN BROOKE



As this booklet shows many people have made outstanding contributions to the county of Norfolk in the name of Toc H. It seems almost unfair to single out one person but then Alan Brooke was an exceptional man. As of 2007 Alan was still working for Toc H in Norfolk until his sudden death at the end of May. The Rally at which this booklet is being launched was originally planned a surprise celebration for Alan.

Alan became involved with Toc H after his own move to Norfolk in 1955. In the mid sixties he – along with Olive Tennant - was one of the prime movers behind what was variously known as the Norfolk Activities Committee or the Norfolk Action Group.

Their body of work was first conceived at Dereham men's branch in Toc H's Golden Jubilee year of 1965. August of that year saw what was Norfolk's first ever Toc H residential project – a week long camp at Santon Downham for some 30 under-privileged boys from Leicester. The camp was a huge success and continued for many years. Along the way a new holiday for adults with physical disabilities was also started leading to a long association with Hengrave Hall. There were also holidays for the deaf and for the visually impaired. Last year, more than 40 years later, Alan and Janet were still leading LEAF a holiday for Lonely Elderly Active Folk. This holiday will continue.

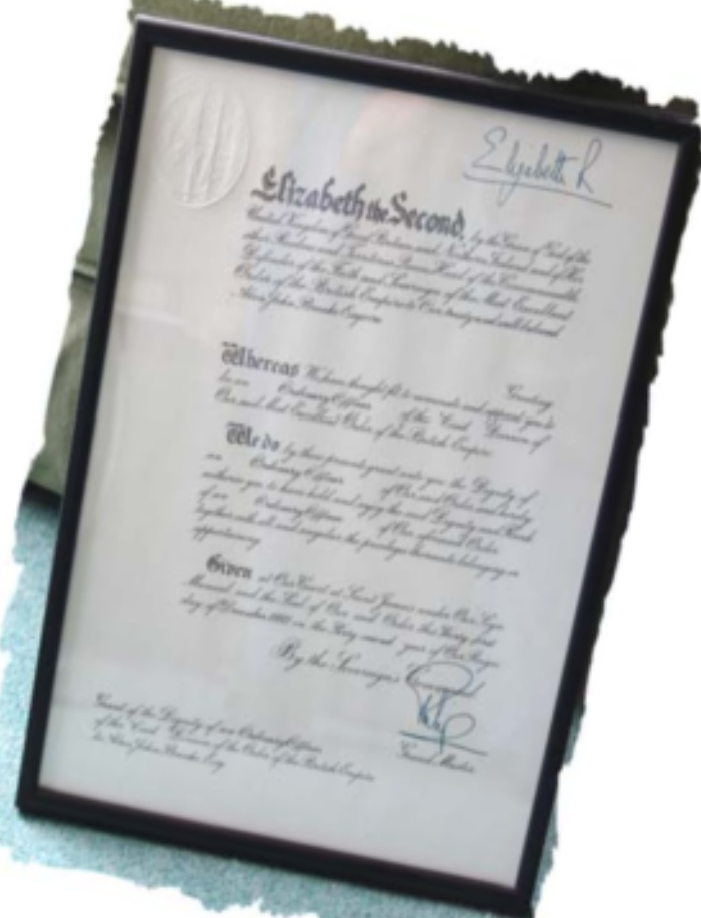
However, Alan didn't content himself with running this repertoire of holidays. In 1970 he was elected to Toc H's Central Council and also the Central Executive Committee ensuring that he took a hand in running the organisation as a whole. He was – in the words of the organisation's magazine – "involved in everything that moves in the region". It was no surprise then that he also became the Regional Chairman of what was then the Mid-East, presiding over gatherings with great humour as well as authority.

Alan's ambition for the organisation was epitomised in 1972 by a scheme to establish a Residential Community to help revive community life in Rural East Anglia. Toc H had recently come in to a large sum of money after selling its Tower Hill headquarters, and Alan and his friends came up with a wonderful idea to use some of the money to establish the community even going as far as producing a booklet outlining their plans. Sadly others in the organisation did not show the same vision and compassion that Alan did and the Community never came to fruition but to me it is just another illustration of how committed Alan was to Toc H.



Alan was awarded the OBE in 1993. The full citation reads:

Mr Alan J Brooke has been appointed an officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his voluntary and charitable services to the community in East Anglia. He has devoted virtually his entire life to voluntary activities benefiting the disadvantaged. He first joined the charity organisation Toc H in 1956, becoming Area Secretary in late 1960s. He was Regional Chairman for East Anglia from 1971 to 1975 and resumed the position in 1988 until the present day. Between 1965 and 1986 he undertook the organisation and running of over 20 summer camps for children in the care of the NSPCC in conjunction with Norfolk Social Services. From 1977 to 1985 he was chairman of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust in Suffolk and continued in the capacity of Vice Chairman from 1985 to date. He was for a time the area Fund Raising Officer for the Red Cross before the post was disbanded. He continues to organise, fundraise, and lead holidays for physically handicapped adults and elderly people in Norfolk and has been doing so since 1976. His ability to get alongside people, to encourage, and inspire others to achieve objectives is well known. His work for the Church and especially the stewardship department in the Diocese of Norwich is extremely committed and practical. The work entails assisting parishes all over Norfolk, unsocial hours and much night travelling to see individuals in their own homes.





Norfolk Activities Committee

This is not the complete story of the Norfolk Activities Committee, merely a few of the bare facts. The real story of this Toc H group should be told by the children and adults who got joy from their holidays in Norfolk and by the volunteers who gained personal development from their time on the camps. These are the real stories of such projects. This extract from a volunteer's report illustrates my point

"What do you do with the boy who is always fighting? Smack him, send him home – or what?. This happened with 'Johnnie'. So the camp leader merely took him by the hand and walked with him to see the ducks on the lake. Only Johnnie knows what she said to him – but it did wonders and Johnnie was no more trouble."

So what of the bare facts? In the summer of 1965 – Toc H's Golden Jubilee year - Dereham men's branch organised Norfolk Toc H's first ever residential project. A week long camp in August at the Norfolk Education camping site at Santon Downham near Brandon gave a holiday for some 30 boys aged 8-12 recommended by Leicester Social Services. (Boys Camps were an important early expression of Toc H's service starting – I believe – in Derby in the 1930s)



It was deemed successful enough to continue. The location switched to Wells and later Holkham. The project caught the imagination of Toc

H in Norfolk and the Dereham men received considerable support through the District teams and branches.

In 1970 the Norfolk Camp Committee was formed and agreed to increase the camp to two weeks and include girls. The children were all from underprivileged backgrounds. The success generated spin-off projects with the Leicester children going to Poacher's Den in Lincolnshire, and an exchange with children in Wellingborough. By the mid seventies the first of each two week holiday was for 12 boys and 12 girls from Norwich (Recommended by the NSPCC); the second week was for 12 boys and 12 girls from Wellingborough in exchange for an equal number of Norfolk boys and girls who went to Wellingborough. All the children were aged 7-11.

By 1974, the project was sufficiently big enough for more help to be engaged and the five districts of Norfolk pooled their resources to form the Norfolk Activities Committee, chaired by Olive Tennant. In





the same year they secured the use of the Scout hut at Garveston for their activities. Twelve deaf lads from Hillingdon were amongst the first to make use of this arrangement.

Money was raised to fund additional projects and a camping holiday for the Deaf was added in 1975, as was a self-funding social holiday combining bird-watching with an exploration of Norfolk churches.

The following year – the long, hot summer of 1976 – saw a week of conservation work at Norfolk Na-

ture Reserve, a holiday for the blind at Cromer, and a repeat of the social holiday, alongside three week's worth of children's camps.

1977 saw a joint children's camp with Social Services' Intermediate Treatment staff and the fruition of a holiday for the physically handicapped which had been conceived two years earlier.

Around 1988 the Children's camps morphed into the 'Cuffley Projects' which were initially held between two bases (Cuffley Youth Centre in Herts and the house at Mundesley) but later remained in Hertfordshire.

By this time the leading lights were Alan Brooke and Olive Tennant and they focussed on holidays for disabled people and the elderly at Hengrave Hall and Ashwellthorpe.

Finally, the Norfolk Activities Committee was reduced to one holiday a year—for older folks. This LEAF (Lonely Elderly Active Folk) holiday still continues and the 2007 event runs from 31st October at the Pheasant in Kelling.

THANK YOU

I am writing to Point Three in order to express publicly my gratitude to three Norfolk stalwarts of Toc H.

In my professional capacity I am the Intermediate Treatment Officer for East Norfolk, and for the past two years I have been responsible for organising jointly with Toc H, a summer camp for 16 children aged 9-12 years.

The three stalwarts in question are Alan Brooke, Len Elphick and Olive Tennant and I have the highest regard for their attitude and approach and general support to our work which is outstanding. The kind of understanding between us is quite special, and at times makes me wish that so called professional social workers would adopt a similarly responsible and humanitarian approach instead of hiding behind rationalisations and excuses of overwork as a way of defending sloppy and uncommitted work.

Our annual camp is held at Duntun, near Fakenham and aims to introduce the children to some challenging and confidence building situations, during which their personal contribution is both encouraged and appraised. We have been fortunate to have well balanced staff groups who communicate honestly and openly despite a wide variation in ages and backgrounds. This level of communication and agreement has really been the key to running a happy and successful week.

Could I say to Toc H and the three people mentioned above, a very big thank you for what you have done and are continuing to do.

M A Stubbings
Norfolk County Council





List of Norfolk Activities Committee Projects

If you know of any errors or omissions please contact me

1965	Boys' Camp	Santon Downham
1966	Boys' Camp	Wells next to the Sea
1967	Boys' Camp	Holkham
1968	Boys' Camp??	
1969	Boys' Camp??	
NORFOLK CAMP COMMITTEE FORMED		
1970	Children's Camps (2 weeks)	Boys & girls for first time; Norwich kids!
1971	Children's Camps	
1972	Children's Camps	
1973	Children's Camps	
1974	Children's Camps	
NORFOLK ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE FORMED		
1975	Children's Camps (2 weeks)	
1975	Camping holiday for the Deaf	
1975	First 'leisure' project	Bird watching and exploring churches
1976	First Conservation project	Norfolk nature reserve
1976	Holiday for the Blind	Cromer
1976	Leisure project	
1976	Children's camps (3 weeks)	
04 Sep – 11 Sep 1977	Flora, Fauna & Folk Lore	Hengrave Hall Physically handicapped
1977	Deaf/Blind w/e holiday	Gorleston
1977	Children's Camp 1	Dunton nr Fakenham for 1 st time
1977	Children's Camp 2	
1977	Children's Camp 3	
1978	Ducks & Dandelions Conservation	
1978	Eyes and Ears – Deaf/blind first full week	
1978	Children's camps (3 no.)	
15 Sep – 22 Sep 1978	Hengrave Hall Holiday	Hengrave Hall
1979	Deaf/Blind Holiday	
1979	Children's Camps (4 no.)	
1979	Weekend Camp	
1979	Conservation Week	
08 Jun – 15 Jun 1979	Hengrave Hall Holiday	Hengrave Hall
14 Apr – 18 Apr 1980	Children' Weekend Camp	Garveston
16 May – 18 May 1980	Ashwellthorpe Holiday	Ashwellthorpe Hall
31 May – 06 Jun 1980	Ears & Eyes Deaf/Blind holiday	Lions' Holiday Hotel, Gorleston
28 Jun – 12 Jul 1980	Balancing Nature Conservation	Strumpshaw Fen
08 Jul – 15 Jul 1980	Living As A Family	Hengrave Hall
02 Aug – 09 Aug 1980	Children's Camp	Holkham Park
09 Aug – 23 Aug 1980	Children's Camps (2 no.)	Dunton Old School
May 1981	Peewits and Places Leisure project	Horstead
1981	Summer Projects (Children's Camps)	
1981	Holiday for mentally handicapped adults	
03 Sep – 10 Sep 1982	Living As a Family	Hengrave Hall
1983	A Deep Breath of Norfolk(Bird watching)	
1983	Conservation Project	
1983	Children's Camp(s)	
03 Sep – 09 Sep 1983	Living As A Family	Hengrave Hall
1984	Bird Watching Week	
1984	Conservation Project	
1984	Children's Camp(s)	
15 Sep – 22 Sep 1984	Ashwellthorpe Hall Holiday	Ashwellthorpe Hall
20 Apr – 27 Apr 1985	Ashwellthorpe Hall Holiday	Ashwellthorpe Hall
04 May- 11 May 1985	Springtime in Norfolk (Leisure)	Hunstanton
06 Jul – 13 Jul 1985	Tending To Nature	Norfolk Broads
20 Jul – 03 Aug 1985	Children's Camps (2 weeks)	
10 Aug – 17 Aug 1985	Adventure Holiday	A more 'strenuous' holiday for older children
13 Sep – 20 Sep 1985	Care and Share	Hengrave Hall
12 Apr – 19 Apr 1986	Ashwellthorpe Hall Holiday	Ashwellthorpe Hall

05 Jul – 12 Jul 1986	Nature Care (Conservation)	Norfolk Broads
09 Aug- 16 Aug 1986	Happy Families (Children 6-8 yrs)	Mundesley
09 Aug – 16 Aug	Children's Camp (Children (9-13 yrs)	Blakeney
1987	Conservation Project	
12 Sep – 18 Sep 1987	Hengrave Hall Holiday	Hengrave Hall
1988	Conservation Project	How Hill
1988	Conservation Project	Beeston Common
1988	Old People's Holiday	Cromer
26 Aug – 02 Sep 1988	Care & Share Family Holiday	Hengrave Hall
02 Sep – 09 Sep 1989	Conservation in Norfolk	North Norfolk
08 Sep – 15 Sep 1989	Sharing a Holiday in Suffolk	Hengrave Hall
1989	Old People's Holiday	Gorleston??
06 Jul – 13 Jul 1990	Hengrave Hall Holiday	Hengrave Hall
08 Sep – 15 Sep 1990	Common Conservation	North Norfolk
16 Nov -18 Nov 1990	Ecumenical Weekend	Hengrave Hall
08 Mar -10 Mar 1991	Ecumenical Weekend	Hengrave Hall
30 Aug – 06 Sep 1991	Hengrave Hall Holiday	Hengrave Hall
1991	Ashwellthorpe Hall Holiday	Ashwellthorpe Hall
28 Aug – 04 Sep 1992	Share and Care	Hengrave Hall
02 Jul – 09 Jul 1993	Share and Care	Hengrave Hall
11 Sep – 18 Sep 1993	Golden Oldies	Ashwellthorpe Hall
26 Aug – 2 Sep 1994	Handle With Care	Hengrave Hall
08 Oct – 15 Oct 1994	Golden Oldies	Ashwellthorpe Hall
25 Aug – 1 Sep 1995	Handle With Care	Hengrave Hall
07 Oct – 14 Oct 1995	Golden Oldies	Ashwellthorpe Hall
19 Jul – 26 Jul 1996	Share and Care	Hengrave Hall
05 Oct – 12 Oct 1996	Golden Oldies	Ashwellthorpe Hall
25 Aug – 05 Sep 1997	Caring and Sharing Spells Happiness	Hengrave Hall
07 Oct – 14 Oct 1997	Golden Oldies	Ashwellthorpe Hall
17 Jul – 24 Jul 1998	A Holiday Viewed From A Wheelchair	Hengrave Hall
03 Sep - 10 Sep 1999	Another View From A Wheelchair	Hengrave Hall
14 Jul – 21 Jul 2000	Another View From A Wheelchair	Hengrave Hall
10 Oct – 17 Oct 2000	Golden Oldies	Ashwellthorpe Hall
14 Sep – 21 Sep 2001	Share and Care	Hengrave Hall
16 Oct – 23 Oct 2001	LEAF (Lonely Elderly Active Folk)	Ashwellthorpe Hall
16 Sep – 23 Sep 2002	Share and Care	Ashwellthorpe Hall .
07 Oct – 14 Oct 2002	LEAF	Ashwellthorpe Hall
15 Sep – 22 Sep 2003	Share and Care	Ashwellthorpe Hall .
14 Oct – 21 Oct 2003	LEAF	Ashwellthorpe Hall .
31 Oct – 07 Nov 2004	LEAF	The Pheasant .
31 Oct – 07 Nov 2005	LEAF	The Pheasant .
01 Nov – 08 Nov 2006	LEAF	The Pheasant
30 Oct – 7 Nov 2007	LEAF	The Pheasant

2008???

HOW MUCH SUPPORT ARE YOU PREPARED TO GIVE ME?

PAT LEONARD

There were many men instrumental in the birth of the movement we knew and know. One of these - Martin Patrick Grainge Leonard DSO, MA – spent the last few years of life here in Norfolk as Bishop of Thetford.

Pat Leonard – as he was generally known – knew Tubby at the Old House and was recruited to help restart the movement back in the UK.

Born in Torpenhow, Cumberland on 5th July 1889 and educated at Rossall and Oriel College Cambridge, Pat was ordained in 1913 and served as a chaplain in WWI. He was among the first padres to be awarded the DSO which he won at Longueval in the first battle of the Somme. He served with 76th Infantry brigade and 4th King's Own but ended the war with the Royal Flying Corps.

After war became chaplain at Cheltenham College but gave this up to join Toc H where he had an illustrious career as well as accompanying Tubby on several trips overseas.

Joint administrator Chaplain HQ 1920-34;
He was Chaplain to Toc H 1922-29 Manchester;
Toured the world with Tubby in 1925;
Led the fledgling movement for 15 months in Australia and 7 months in the US;
Curate of All Hallows 1931-36;;
Became a Vice President of Toc H and was chief overseas commissioner;
Also very involved with Boy Scouts Pat held the Silver Wolf

Stepped down from frontline Toc H duty in 1936 to become Rector of Bishop's Hatfield (Hertfordshire) 1936-44 (and Rural Dean of Hertford in 1940) then appointed Provost of Glasgow Cathedral from 1944 to 1953

In September 1953 Pat was consecrated as Suffragan Bishop of Thetford by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr Geoffrey Fisher). The ceremony took place in Southwark Cathedral.

Pat Leonard was Rector of West Tofts with Bukenham Parvae from 1954

Also Vicar of Stanford from 1954

A keen philatelist, Pat became president of the Norfolk and Norwich Philatelic Society in 1957.

In 1961 Pat visited his daughter and son-in-law in Kenya. When he returned home he fell ill and was diagnosed with cancer.

He died at 5am on Sunday 21st July 1963 in the Middlesex Hospital, London. He had been due to retire as Bishop of Thetford in September. His funeral was held at All Hallows on Wednesday 24th July 1963 and a Thanksgiving Service was held in Norwich Cathedral on 31st July. He left two sons and two daughters and his widow, Kay.

Kay moved into The Close in the ground of Norwich Cathedral where she lived for many years. She ended her days in the nearby Great Hospital where – in the Butterfly Garden on the south side of St Helen's church – there is a round wall plaque commemorating her. It reads, "In memory of Kay Leonard 1900-94 who loved this place."



WE WILL REMEMBER.....

A small selection of local obituaries from the pages of Point 3
Date given is Point 3 issue date

Last October, Gorleston Joint Branch lost its oldest member, **Leonard (Pop) Baldwin** aged 98 and a half years. For many years, 'Pop' had been a friend of St George's Church, Ypres, which he had visited on many occasions. His family recently attended a service at the Church, during which a brass plaque was dedicated to 'Pop'. We are extremely proud to have this news of a singular honour bestowed upon one of our members.

CAB

October 1988

Bernard (BB) Bothams aged 97, founder member of the Gorleston Branch 1930, an extremely active and popular figure in the community, especially in the war years when he organised the Forces Canteen over the old Coliseum. A great character who will be sadly missed.

CB

June 1987

Winifred Mary Brinded died suddenly on 17 October. She had been a member of Toc H for over 50 years, first with the Great Yarmouth Women's Branch and later was one of the founder Gorleston Women members. She then helped to establish a branch at Bradwell where she worked until its closure, after which she became a member of the Broadland District. She always took a great interest in Toc H work and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

PMB

Dec 1994

We are sad to hear of the death of Canon Peter Raban. Peter was a teacher in East Anglia before the War, but while in the army in Italy met Toc H through its welfare work, and then joined the staff in 1946. He served as Area Secretary in East Anglia, and then in Liverpool, before leaving in 1952 to attend Chichester Theological College. His subsequent ministry was entirely in the Winchester Diocese.

Sep 1996

North Walsham Branch regret to announce the death of **Claude G Gompertz**, a long-serving member of the Movement. He was only a member of our Branch for a few years, when he came to live in the town, but had also been a staunch member of Kings Lynn Branch, had had connections at times with Norwich and Gorleston Branches, and had known Tubby quite well. He had just been made a life-member of the Magic Circle. Amongst his many interests his favourite, when well enough, was acting as one of the Guides in Norwich Cathedral. Claude will be greatly missed by many in the town and surrounding villages. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Betty, and his many relations.

PP

November 1987

Sydney 'Smudger' Smith, who died in October, joined Great Yarmouth Branch in the mid 30s, later transferring to Gorleston Branch. A very active and knowledgeable man, he was continually on the lookout to help other people with their problems. In 1963 he became the General Secretary of the Great Yarmouth Scouts Association and kept in touch with Toc H as a District Member. The large congregation attending his funeral service was a splendid tribute and indicative of his impact upon the community.

CAB

Dec 1994

LADY MAYHEW, who died on 13th July, aged 100, was a member of Norwich branch of the Women's Association, and was made a Vice-President in the 1950s. She was a very active Vice-President, attending Central Executive meetings, Council and serving on the Overseas Committee. When age finally limited her involvement, she became a loyal Toc H Builder. She was a delightful personality and a good mixer. **EW**

Dec 1998

Olive Tennant who died suddenly in January aged 77, was a leading member in East Anglia for many years. She joined in 1955, and was a key organiser of the annual Norfolk children's camps (from the '60s) and also, from 1976, holidays for the elderly and people with disabilities. Olive was, in particular, an assiduous fund-raiser and publicist. In recent years she gave much support to Quidenham Hospice, and Point 3 last October reported her flight in a Microlight to support it. She served terms as a Central Councillor, and also on the C.E.C. A committed and enthusiastic member, who really believed in Toc H, she will be much missed.

April 2002

MULTUM IN PARVO

A handful of Norfolk Toc H trivia that wouldn't fit in anywhere else

Barclay 'Barkis' Baron—stalwart staff member and editor of the Journal—entered a painting of Blakeney Harbour in the 1936 Coming of Age Festival Art Contest and won the oils category (Class 1)

In 1955 Tubby announced he was to hold a ceremony on Tower Hill illustrating the mercy shown to Jesus by a Roman Commander. Norfolk's Scouts and Guides were to provide bodies for this pageant that was to become an annual event. A second explanation says that the ceremony was to celebrate Classicianus, the Roman Procurator of Britain whose gravestone was found near Tubby's home on Tower Hill. Classicianus had been in power when Boudicca (Boadicea) and the Iceni had sacked London. He was responsible for showing mercy and not wreaking revenge on Norfolk. The Norfolk Guides and Scouts came to play the Iceni whilst the Romans were played by Marksmen particularly from Prideaux House. .

Dorothy France, a Queen Alexander nurse and one of just eight women Foundation members, gave her address as Northgate Hall, Warham, Wells on the Communicants slip she signed.

The metal Toc H sign (Similar to a shield) was designed by the Boddy brothers from Norwich branch in 1927. Boddy Brothers normally made things like metal milk churns.

On 5th October 1951a Divisional Night was held at the War Memorial Hall in Dereham. Over 400 people were present to hear Tubby deliver a speech. (Another source says 550)

Greshams of Holt was an affiliated school

In 1931 H.W. Cleland of the Norvic Shoe Company, Norwich was Toc H's schools representative

1936 Tubby came to Great Yarmouth to talk about Leper Colonies in Nigeria. One of the people who heard him talk was Fred Tuck – secretary of Dereham branch. Three weeks later he set sail from Liverpool to West Africa where he worked in the Leper Colonies. He met his wife, Edna, in Nigeria and they married in 1941. Fred and Edna returned to the UK in 1958 and returned to Norfolk in 1975 living in Hethersett. He remained a strong supporter of Toc H until his death on 7th April 2007 at the age of 96.

Norfolk Voluntary Association for the Physically Handicapped started holidays at Gorleston Super Holiday Camp in 1953. Two local Toc H branches were amongst the volunteers who assisted.



ONE MAN'S JOURNEY INTO TOC H

Colin Websdell was born in Norfolk but moved to Staffordshire. It was here that he first came into contact with Toc H when Mr and Mrs Dyson invited him to join the family. After returning to Norfolk he became involved with Norwich District and in 1977 first met Alan Brooke and Olive Tennant (whom he later called his mum and dad!) It would be Olive who would initiate him after being sponsored by Reg Ives. At this time Norwich branch met in the Church Rooms of the URC church in Princes Street. The first thing that Colin got involved with at this time was the great knit-in (See activities). He also went to the Boys Camp with Ken Wisden.



Colin – who has a disability himself - then started helping at the Hengrave Hall holidays which, he says, “made me realise how lucky I was”. Colin was a qualified First Aider and became an expert wheelchair lifter.

He also joined a local project group known as the SAGGERS and through this Colin did a Sponsored Bike Ride from Norwich to Hengrave Hall and back assisted by his policeman friend – Paul Watson. He followed this up with a further sponsored ride to Walsingham and another to Cromer. On the latter his wheel buckled and he returned part of the way to Norwich on foot. He also did the Stockmen's tent at the Royal Norfolk Show assisting Pat Dalley and her husband.

Colin's first trip to Talbot House was with Alan and Olive and he remembers weeping in the Upper Room. And now, all these years later, Colin is an important part of the Norfolk Activities Committee.

REMNANTS

The real legacy Toc H leaves behind is the Service it has carried out over the years: However, there are some physical reminders of Toc H scattered about the county.



Clockwise from Top Left: The lamp in the window of Anna Sewell House, Church Plain, Yarmouth; a bench outside Caister library; the North Walsham hut on New Road; the Bradwell banner in Bradwell parish church



A Humorous TAILPIECE

Why serving your fellow man is not so straightforward these days:

The word came down from God to Noah: "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans" He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. "Noah!", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval and I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site, even though in my view it is a temporary structure. We had to then go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision. Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it..

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go! When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many disabled carpenters I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The British government beat me to it."



This booklet was compiled by Steve Smith and distributed free to Toc H members on the occasion of the Norfolk Area Rally on Saturday 20th October 2007.

This edition contains a few small corrections and additions

Text © Steve Smith 2007-2008

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Steve Smith's first involvement with Toc H was in the late sixties when he used to play in an old Nissan hut in Goffs Oak which his mother told him used to be the Toc H hut. He thought no further about this until the late eighties when John Burgess came to Cuffley Youth Centre - where Steve was a volunteer Youth Worker - looking for a home for some Toc H projects. A relationship between the Youth Club and Toc H was quickly established and together they took a party of youngsters to Talbot House a year or so later. This was Steve's first visit to Poperinge and his real introduction to Toc H.

Steve became involved with the Lea Valley branch for several years and after moving to Norfolk in 2005 became a Toc H staff member for 16 months. He is now a regular visitor to Gorleston branch and has taken over the running of the Norfolk Activities Committee since the death of Alan Brooke. He is also working with others to catalogue and preserve the Toc H archive at headquarters.

Steve lives near Aylsham with his partner Hazel, and is determined that the name of Toc H will live on in the county of Norfolk.

Steve can be contacted as follows

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My thanks are extended to the many people who helped me in compiling this booklet but especially to John Burgess, Charles Harrold, Gorleston branch, Norwich Cathedral Library, Norfolk Museums Services, and the EDP cuttings library.

I am also extremely grateful to those branches and individuals who made financial donations which helped us produce this booklet and to hold the Rally at Overstrand on Saturday 20th October 2007 at which this booklet was launched.

Finally, my gratitude goes to every single worldwide member of Toc H since the very beginning for forming part of an organisation which has played such an important role in my life.

Social History is important and much of Toc H's history lies within the memories of its members. I would love to hear your memories and stories of Toc H. I don't mind how you do it—write them down, record them or call me up and tell me but please don't let them lost.

Also, if you have any interesting memorabilia I'd love to see it

Many thanks

Steve

